JOHN EPHRIAM MOULTON

In 1860 the Thomas Moulton family moved from Provo to Heber City, Utah. The settlers in Heber City were having trouble with the Indians and they had built a log fort in the northwest part of town, starting on 1st West and 3rd North, running north and west to 3rd West. It afforded protection to 66 families. Moultons helped to finish the fort and moved into it.

September 16, 1860, John Ephriam Moulton was born. He was the ninth child of Thomas and Sarah Denton Moulton.

The children went to school in the old school house near the fort. They were all taught to help wherever they could with the farm work. They gleaned wheat and saved the straw which they took home to their mother who helped them make straw hats. John helped wherever he was needed.

When John was a young man, he joined the dramatic society of the valley. He acted in many of their plays, one of which was Octoroon. They began to build a theatre building but the Bishop thought it was not right to build a theatre when they needed a church, so the work on it ceased. It was never finished and the two rock walls stood for years.

John was a tall, slender man and wore a black mustache. His hair was black and wavy. His eyes were dark blue. He was an ambitious young man and secured a job working for his brother, William, who lived on a ranch north of Heber. He drove a wagon for his brother, taking farm produce from the ranch to Park City, Utah. While he was working here for his brother he met Isabell Thacker.

Isabell was the daughter of William and Rachel Tonks Thacker. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was of a religious family, and as a young girl, walked much of the way across the plains. Isabell was an ambitious girl and went out working, helping in the homes of people and in this way helped out in the support of her own family. She went to work at the William Moulton ranch, helping in the large 14 room home. Isabell was an attractive girl with light brown curly hair, blue eyes and a happy disposition so it wasn't surprising when John, the hired man, who was tall, dark and handsome, with kind and refined manners, soon won her heart. They were married the 23rd of March, 1882, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. Daniel Wells performed the ceremony.

John and Isabell came back to the ranch to live. They had a little log house across the road west from the big home; here their first two children were born - - - Charlotte Elizabeth, on January 5, 1883, and John Thomas, December 24, 1884. Around 1885, John moved his family to Heber City, from the ranch, where he made his home with his father and mother, working at farming and stock raising. Here Frederick William was born, June 22, 1887, and died 8 days later.

Fred W. Giles, who had married John's older sister Mary Ann, along with John Crook, who was a very good friend, secured a pugmill and molds to make bricks in the south fields. The bricks were to be used in building homes for themselves. When they first started, they could make 3000 bricks per day, but after a month, they were able to make 6000. Next they went to the rock quarry east of Heber and quarried sand rock for the foundations of their new homes. They then went to Joseph Smither's sawmill to get out the lumber. Arthur Brooder laid the brick and John Watkins did the plastering. By 1889 each of these men

had a nice new home for his family. These houses are still standing and being used today, in this year 1971. Just after John and Isabell moved into their new home Addison Charles was born, April 30, 1889.

On May 17, 1890, the Dramatic Group, of which John was a member, presented a benefit performance for John. Such was the custom for this group to give a benefit for any member of the community who left on a mission for the Church. At the time John was called on his mission he had three small children. They were a happy family in their new home. Thomas Moulton, John's father, had buried his wife and, being alone, had come to live with them. On May 20, 1890, John left on his mission, leaving his father to help care for his family while he was gone.

In the Northern States mission, he was assigned to be district president and traveled throughout the mission organizing Sunday Schools and hunting up lost saints. Andrew Johnson and Robert Duke, from Heber, were in the same mission and when any one of the three men would write home, their families would get together and read the letters. When John had been in the mission field twenty-two months, his father became very ill. He was given an honorable release to come home. Shortly after he returned, his father passed away.

Deyce Bell was born February 3, 1893; Albert Thacker was born February 17, 1895; Earnest Dewey was born May 7, 1898; Ethel Fern was born September 19, 1901.

John made his living at farming and stock raising at which he was very successful. He was kind-hearted and generous, and was always taking sacks of flour to the widows or those less fortunate than he. He often signed notes with his friends and relatived who were having trouble and not doing so well. Many of these notes he had to repay himself. He taught his family to be generous as well.

Isabell was a wonderful mother, patient and kind, and a very good cook, housekeeper and home maker. She had many talents. She did the family sewing, raised lovely house plants, enjoyed music and had a nice singing voice, enjoying singing as she did her work. She had a cheerful disposition and was active in the organizations, being a faithful Latter-day Saint.

Two of Isabell's brother's children, Claude and Pearl, came to live with John and his family after their mother died. Isabell's father also made his home with them. One morning John got up to see how Grandfather Thacker was and found he had passed away during the night at the age of 92.

March 23, 1907, John and Isabell celebrated their Silver Wedding at their home in Heber City. They served a hot dinner to a host of friends and relatives. Martha Witt was employed as a special cook. They spent days preparing for the event. This was a memorable event in their lives.

John taught theology classes and to this day many of his pupils tell what a wonderful teacher he was. He was a counselor to Bishop Hicken. He worked as superintendent of the Sunday School and was head of the finance committee when they were building the Heber Second Ward Chapel, and also the Heber Social Hall. He was on the high council for many years and traveled with his horse and buggy throughout the Wasatch Stake to fill the appointments made for him at this time.

John was also active in politics. He served on the City

Council for ten years and held many positions of trust. When he was running for mayor, his opponent Dr. Ray Hatch tells that John came to him and said, "Let's have a clean campaign. Let's not say bad things about each other." This campaign, according to the Wasatch Wave, was a very exciting one. John E. Moulton was victorious and filled the position with honor. The Heber Power Plant was erected during his administration. John E. Moulton was elected November, 1913, and held this position until his death, February 3, 1915.

The following is an account found in the Wasatch Wave, the community newspaper:

> On Wednesday morning of this week the people of Heber were shocked to learn of the death of their Mayor, John E. Moulton, as a result of complications ending with pneumonia. The funeral services will be held at the Stake Tabernalce, Friday at 1 p.m.
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> Mr. Moulton was known by all and was highly respected. He has filled many positions of trust both in the church and in civic life and has quitted himself well.
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> His illness was of brief duration. On Wednesday night of last week he attended the show and after returning home and retiring, took a chill. He was carefully nursed from that time until he died, but without lasting results. Brights disease took its part in weakening the system and when the fatal pneumonia set in, friends and relatives feared the result, though they remained hopeful to the last.

The family have the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement.

Isabell died after a long illness at the home of her daughter, Lottie Giles, in Heber City, March 2, 1925.

written by Florence Moulton Anderson, - Granddaughter - & Ethel Moulton Watson - Daughter - & Addison C. Moulton - Son.

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